

Calling attention to a matter of urgent Public Importance.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR (Belgaum City).—Sir, I wish to call attention of the concerned Minister to the matter relating to the squatting strike by the teachers of the Vidyā Mandir High School 21 Teachers of the Vidyamandir High School have gone on strike.

Mr. SPEAKER.—There should be no speech.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—They have given notice to the management as well as to the Head Master of the High School that if their two demands are not met they will resort to squatting strike in the premises of the High School building. The two demands are that that these teachers have not been given salaries since March 1963.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Has the strike taken place or is it going to begin hereafter?

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—According to the notice, they were to resort to strike on 16th September. I had given notice of this motion long before that date.

Mr. SPEAKER.—What is the position to-day?

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—That I do not know, Sir. I want to know it from the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Not a happy state of affairs—The member cannot draw the attention to a threatened strike.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—The question is about the redress of grievances of the teachers, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—That does not merit a call-attention notice.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—There is a dispute going on between the Head Master and the Management for the last two years and the matter is pending before the court. Unfortunately, Sir, all the teachers have to suffer. They have not received their salaries and their two demands are (1) that the revised pay-scale is to be made applicable to them, and (2) the difference between their scales as revised and what is now paid to them should be paid to them immediately.

They have represented the matter to the Education Department and to the Minister, but to no avail. As a last resort they have given notice of squatting strike to the Management. I want to know what the Government proposes to do, whether they will take action to redress the grievances of these teachers.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Would the Minister like the House to know something about it?

Smt. GRACE TUCKER (Deputy Minister for Education).—The Vidya Mandir High School, Nippani, Belgaum District has not paid the salary of the teaching staff of the School from March 1963.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Is it a Government institution or a private managed institution?

Smt. GRACE TUCKER.—It is an aided institution. As reported by the Deputy Director of Public Instruction for the past six months it has not paid the salary. There seems to be some controversy between the

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Management of the School and the teaching staff. There are 21 members on the teaching staff. As far as Government grant for the school is concerned, it has been paid up-to-date. The accumulated arrears of difference of pay due to the staff members on account of the revision of pay scales of 1961, which is the second demand brought to our notice, has also been settled with the Management up-to-date. The Chairman of the Educational Society running the Vidya Mandir High School was also directed by the Educational Inspector at Belgaum to pay the teachers, but this was not done. The Head Master of the School also had reported that it is very difficult to run the School without paying the teachers and it is reported that the teachers may strike if they are not paid. The Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Dharwar has in his letter dated 24th August 1963 instructed the Educational Inspector, Belgaum not to pay the advance grants for 1963-64. The grant has been held up till the arrears of salaries of the teachers are paid and also their salaries are paid up-to-date. Then the advance grants for 1963-64 will be released.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It looks as if Government has not got information up-to-date. After 24th August, much water has flown under the bridge. It would have been better if the information had been obtained up-to-date. The Hon'ble Member also should not keep quiet after giving notice. I was under the impression that the strike was on; Otherwise, it could afford to wait; It does not merit calling the attention of the Government.

Smt. GRACE TUCKER.—Up to the moment the stalemate continues in the School and we understand that the teachers have not been paid their salaries as yet, but they still continue to work under a sort of stress.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It is the recalcitrants of the Management that are in the way. Government disbursed the grants up-to-date; yet the Management has not paid the teachers.

Smt. GRACE TUCKER.—This is being examined by Government and steps will be taken to end the present state of affairs in the School.

Members Representations.

Sri S. SIVAPPA (Sravanabelgola).—On a matter of procedure. Day before yesterday one full day was allotted for the discussion of the Report of the Public Service Commission. Unfortunately, the Reports for the years 1958-59, 1959-60, and 1960-61 was placed before this House by the Chief Minister and we do not know what happened, because we were just outside for a few minutes. Before we wanted to get in, that Report of the Public Service Commission for three years was adopted by this House in one minute. I am not questioning the form of democracy but the spirit of democracy. We want to see that full discussion is allowed on such an important Report.